

**APPLICATION TO THE ASSESSOR FOR CLASSIFICATION OF LAND AS OPEN SPACE****FILING INFORMATION**

The term "open space land" means any area of land, including forest land, land designated as wetland under §22a-30 of the Connecticut General Statutes and not excluding farm land, the preservation or restriction of the use of which would (1) maintain and enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources, (2) protect natural streams or water supply, (3) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches or tidal marshes, (4) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries or other open spaces, (5) enhance public recreation opportunities, (6) preserve historic sites or (7) promote orderly urban or suburban development.

A local planning commission may designate areas of open space land that it recommends for preservation, on the municipal plan of development. Areas so designated must be approved by a majority vote of the municipality's legislative body. Land included in any designated area on a plan of development as finally adopted by a municipality's legislative body may be classified as open space land for purposes of property taxation or payments in lieu thereof if there has been no change in the use of such area which has adversely affected its essential character as an area of open space land between the date of the adoption of such plan and the date of such classification.

An application for open space classification must be filed on this form, as prescribed by the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, pursuant to §12-107e(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes. The property owner must complete this form and file it with the assessor of the town where the land is situated. *If there is more than one owner, each must sign the application.* The filing period is between September 1st and October 31st, except in a year in which a revaluation of all real property is effective in the town, in which case the filing deadline is December 30th.

Failure to file in the proper manner and form shall be considered a waiver of the right to such classification under §12-107c(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes as of the October 1st assessment date. *A separate application must be filed for each parcel of land.*

You are responsible for contacting the assessor to update your application if there is a change in use, acreage or ownership of this property after the assessor approves its classification. If there is a change of use or a sale of the classified land, the classification ceases (pursuant to §12-504h of the Connecticut General Statutes) and you may be liable for an additional conveyance tax. Please review attached copies of the statutes concerning the imposition of this tax (§12-504a through §2-504e, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes).

